

A. Loudon Snowden, Esq.,

Jan. 12. 1882.

Sup't. U. S. Mint,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I have received your letter of the 11th, instant stating that you have been notified by the Superintendents of the several Mints that they have forwarded certain reverse dies to your Mint, ^{and} that you are at a loss to understand why they are sent to you.

Prior to the last calendar year it had been the custom of the Mint at Philadelphia to furnish the other mints with dies of such denominations and in such numbers as requisitions were made for, and as it was usual for the mints to keep a supply of dies on hand, some of the reverse dies might not be used for several years.

No means therefore existed for knowing whether all the dies sent from your Mint were used or destroyed.

In order that a more complete record might be kept and that all coinage dies could be traced from the time they left your Mint until they were destroyed, a system was adopted of numbering consecutively all dies made for each year and their use and destruction reported by their numbers.

In your letter of September 14th, 1880, you suggested, that, as at the conclusion of each fiscal year there are a number of reverse dies which are usually carried over and used the following year, all these dies be destroyed.

Adopting your suggestion so far as not to carry dies made for one year over into subsequent years, I instructed the Superintendents of the Mints to return unused reverse dies to your Mint.

It seems to me that the numbers on these dies might be ground out or otherwise removed and that they be renumbered, recorded and returned in filling requisitions for subsequent years. If this is not practicable they should be destroyed

Very respectfully

Horatio C. Burchard

Director,